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REVIEW OF SECTORAL CLUSTERS: LAND, DESERTIFICATION, FORESTS AND BIODIVERSITY

Report of the Ad Hoc Inter-sessional Working Group on Sectoral Issues of the Commission on Sustainable Development

(New York, 27 February-3 March 1995)

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INTRODUCTION

1. The report of the Ad Hoc Inter-sessional Working Group on Sectoral Issues is not a negotiated text, although its contents have been thoroughly discussed. In accordance with the expert nature of the Working Group and the functions assigned to it by the Commission on Sustainable Development, the present report focuses on key issues and conclusions and suggests possible recommendations and policy options for consideration by the Commission at its third session.

I. COMMON ELEMENTS AND INTERLINKAGES

2. A number of issues common to all the topics under consideration emerged during the discussion of the Working Group. It was noted that chapter 10 of Agenda 21, 1/ entitled "Integrated approach to the planning and management of land resources", provided an overall framework for the implementation of the entire cluster. All the chapters are related to land; however, those on forests and sustainable agriculture are concerned with the sustainable management and use of physical and biological resources, those on desertification and sustainable mountain development reflect the particular problems of fragile environments, and that on biodiversity covers an issue of a cross-cutting nature.

A. Approaches

3. Respect for national sovereignty, as well as the need for a comprehensive approach to the implementation of the recommendations and commitments contained in Agenda 21, the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, 2/ and the Non-legally Binding Authoritative Statement of Principles for a Global Consensus on the Management, Conservation and Sustainable Development of All Types of Forests, 3/ is fundamental for achieving sustainable development.

4. A people-oriented approach adapted to suit local circumstances is central to sustainable development. All stakeholders, including women, indigenous people and other major groups, should participate in the planning and management of land resources, as well as in the consensus-building process. The empowerment of people and communities, and the creation of an enabling environment, as well as the strengthening of capacities at the local and intermediate levels, are other important elements of this multi-stakeholder approach. It is critically important that interactions between Governments and other stakeholders in the planning, consensus-building and management process take place at the appropriate level. This may be national, intermediate or local, and needs to be decided on a case-by-case basis. Discussions at the intermediate level can be particularly useful for balancing local and national concerns.

5. Any integrated and multidisciplinary approach to the planning, development and management of land resources needs to address an array of cross-sectoral issues such as the creation of productive employment, the eradication of poverty and responses to the pressures on land caused by poverty, population growth,

changing demographic patterns and unsustainable consumption and production. Land tenure and ownership reforms are central to the solution of these problems. These cross-sectoral issues apply equally in resolving the conflicting land demands of agriculture, forestry and urban or periurban development, in coastal zones, and when seeking to integrate land and water management and to conserve fragile ecosystems.

6. Governments, local communities and organizations and the private business sector are all stakeholders in the development, use and management of land resources. Governments have a responsibility to provide the necessary enabling environment, guiding markets and investments so that they operate in a manner compatible with national economic, social and environmental objectives and international trade arrangements and facilitate sustainable development.

B. Tools

7. Land assessment and evaluation methodologies, together with those for resource characterization, are essential for the planning and management process. The collection, availability and proper use of timely and reliable scientific data are also essential for the formulation and implementation of policies and the monitoring of results. Indicators, including performance indicators, need to be developed on the basis of sound scientific knowledge, recognizing the need for an approach that is tailored to meet local requirements and circumstances. The development of computerized geographical information systems and the availability of remote-sensing imagery are examples of useful modern tools for decision-making. There is a need for the coordination of the various planning requirements and for linking sectoral plans to sustainable development strategies.

8. Human resource development is an essential first step for capacity-building and awareness-raising as well as for empowering people and local communities and enhancing their productivity. Modern communication technologies can make a major contribution to the wide dissemination of information and educational material.

C. Finance

9. National efforts in developing countries to mobilize financial resources for full and effective implementation of Agenda 21, including its land-related chapters under review, have to be supported by the international community. It is imperative that all financial recommendations and commitments of Agenda 21, including those related to the provision to the developing countries of adequate and predictable, new and additional financial resources, are implemented. The need for partnership for sustainable development among all countries, and better cooperation and coordination among national institutions, international organizations including international financial institutions, the private sector and non-governmental organizations, were underscored. The meeting of the Ad Hoc Inter-sessional Working Group on Finance of the Commission on Sustainable Development provides an important opportunity to further the discussion on this crucial matter.

D. Technology transfer, cooperation and capacity-building

10. The subject of technology transfer, as set forth in chapter 34 of Agenda 21, is a key element in the attainment of sustainable development. Each of the sectoral reports under consideration by the Working Group contains sections devoted to the scientific, technological and capacity-building dimensions of the cluster of land-related issues. One report prepared by a panel of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development is devoted exclusively to "Science and technology for integrated land management".

11. The sharing of scientific knowledge and, more specifically, the transfer of environmentally sound technology, including on concessional and preferential terms, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 34, are crucial instrumentalities for achieving the objectives of Agenda 21. Several members of the Working Group felt that better linkages should be established between the cross-sectoral dimension of technology transfer and the specific technology issues raised in the sectoral reports. Additional research and knowledge, particularly in the social sciences, are required on such issues as land tenure systems, migration patterns and traditional systems of law, as a basis for future policy recommendations on land management.

12. The urgency of transferring modern survey technologies such as improved systems of remote-sensing geographical information systems to secure better monitoring of land use, agriculture, forestry and biodiversity was underscored by the Working Group. The practical approach taken to technology transfer at the meeting held in Mexico City in March 1994 within the context of the Convention on Biological Diversity 4/ was noted. At the same time, it was recognized that inappropriate technology and input-intensive solutions to agricultural and land-use problems may in some cases lead to unsustainable results. Greater reliance on indigenous knowledge and close involvement of farmers and other land users might in fact provide alternatives to undue reliance on external technology. Matters related to safeguarding farmers' rights, indigenous knowledge, innovation, technology and intellectual property rights were discussed and their importance was emphasized. New and better technologies and deeper scientific knowledge along with development of the related institutional and human capacities are nevertheless essential ingredients that must receive further national and international support and encouragement.

E. Relationship between existing conventions and other related processes

13. The Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa (A/49/84/Add.2, annex, appendix II) have now established their own agendas for action, which should be supported by the Commission on Sustainable Development. The Commission should therefore urge countries to sign, ratify, accede to and implement the conventions. Furthermore, the Commission should look into the relationship between work under these conventions and ongoing work on sustainable development in other, related processes in the follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Environment and

Development including work under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (see A/AC.237/18 (Part II)/Add.1 and Corr.1). The Commission should encourage a coordinated approach to implementation at the international and the national level, with a view to making more efficient and effective use of resources.

II. RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE PROPOSALS CONTAINED IN THE REPORTS OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

14. The Working Group took note of the detailed proposals for action included in the reports of the Secretary-General. It gave a general welcome to these proposals, but expressed reservations on some of them. It was agreed that implementation at the national level was essential (though without detracting from the importance of international cooperation). There was also agreement that the relative priorities of the different recommendations needed further evaluation. The Working Group recommends that the Commission agree on future action, based on the recommendations and the views expressed in the discussion of the various sectoral reports.

A. Agenda 21, chapter 10: integrated approach to the planning and management of land resources

15. The management of land and its resources, which is crucial to sustainable development, was emphasized as a national prerogative calling for national and subnational action. At the same time, there is a need for cooperation between Governments and international organizations in this area. The importance of appropriate land tenure arrangements and legislation in determining efficient land use and management was stressed. Many delegations welcomed the conclusions and recommendations of the International Workshop on the Planning and Management of Land Resources, held in Wageningen, the Netherlands, from 20 to 22 February 1995, under the auspices of the Government of the Netherlands in cooperation with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and of the Panel on Science and Technology for Integrated Land Management of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development. They noted that the recommendations of the Workshop complemented those contained in the report of the Secretary-General on an integrated approach to the planning and management of land resources (E/CN.17/1995/2) and were worthy of further consideration by the Commission.

16. The exchange of knowledge and methodology was commended, with the caveat that data collection was costly and needed to be focused on priority topics.

17. The proposal for a covenant on good land use, as contained in proposal 7 of the report of the Secretary-General on an integrated approach to the planning and management of land resources (see E/CN.17/1995/2, sect. III (2)), and that for an international working group, as contained in proposal 8 of the report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.17/1995/2, sect. III (2)), were not supported.

B. Agenda 21, chapter 11: forests

18. There was recognition that chapter 11 of Agenda 21 and the Non-legally Binding Authoritative Statement of Principles for a Global Consensus on the Management, Conservation and Sustainable Development of All Types of Forests represent an important international consensus, and that efforts should be made to promote their full and urgent implementation. The Commission on Sustainable Development was seen as providing the appropriate framework for bringing together the capacities and competencies of many United Nations bodies and other international organizations in the follow-up to these agreements. There was also a general preference for further consideration of options to take place under intergovernmental forums rather than through groups of eminent persons or other non-official mechanisms.

19. In considering the analysis of demands, challenges and issues, as well as proposals for action, the Working Group called for full attention to be paid to the cross-sectoral factors that are the underlying causes of deforestation and degradation of forests. It emphasized that such factors as consumption and production patterns, poverty, population growth, pollution, terms of trade, discriminatory trade practices and unsustainable policies related to sectors like agriculture, energy and trade could exert a significant adverse influence on forests. It also recalled the multiple roles of forests in economic development and in conserving biological diversity and supporting the livelihoods of many indigenous and other local communities, in addition to their many other production- and protection-related and social functions.

20. The Working Group welcomed post-United Nations Conference on Environment and Development progress reported by the Secretary-General with regard to level of awareness of forest issues, adaptation of policies, and preparation or adaptation of strategies and action plans, as well as some concrete action. It considered further concrete action, particularly by Governments, to be an urgent priority and identified a number of outstanding issues that required further attention, some of which were reflected in the conclusions and options for action indicated by the Secretary-General.

21. To pursue consensus and formulation of coordinated proposals for action, the Working Group suggested that the Commission, at its third session, consider the establishment of an open-ended intergovernmental panel on forests, under the aegis of the Commission. The panel should work in an open, transparent and participatory manner. It should provide an assessment of action already undertaken to combat deforestation and forest degradation and to promote management conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests, including environmental and socio-economic impacts, and against this background propose options for further action. In its work, the panel would draw upon the expertise of relevant organizations, including FAO, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) and other relevant organizations within and outside of the United Nations system as well as the secretariats of relevant conventions, with appropriate contributions from non-governmental organizations. The Commission should consider arrangements for effective coordination of this process.

22. The Commission would determine the mandate of the panel and the modalities for its establishment. The Working Group suggested that the terms of reference should derive from elements contained in the Non-legally Binding Authoritative Statement of Principles for a Global Consensus on the Management, Conservation and Sustainable Development of All Types of Forests and in chapter 11 of Agenda 21, taking into account subsequent international initiatives related to forests. Possible elements for the programme of work or terms of reference of the intergovernmental panel on forests were presented during the discussions and are included in annex I to this report. The panel should submit a progress report to the Commission at its fourth session and its final conclusions, recommendations and proposals for action to the Commission at its fifth session.

C. Agenda 21, chapter 12: combating desertification and drought

23. Emphasis was placed on the need for early signature, ratification and entry into force of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, and to support resolution 5/1 of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the Elaboration of an International Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, on urgent action for Africa (see A/49/84/Add.2, annex, appendix III, sect. A), as well as to promote actions in other regions. The Commission was urged to give strong political support to the first session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention to Combat Desertification.

24. Desertification is a social and economic problem, as well as an environmental one. Drought and land degradation can occur in all climatic zones, affecting a very large number of people. Emphasis was placed on the need to take action on drought, particularly for the mitigation of its effects, and to recognize that land degradation also occurs in subhumid and humid regions. Attention was drawn to the close relationship among desertification, water issues, irrational use of land, the loss of biodiversity, and the possible aggravation of desertification through climate change. It was also indicated that implementation of the programme areas of Agenda 21 should be carried out within the context of the Convention, including its regional implementation annexes.

25. The potential for the Convention to provide an in-country coordinating mechanism for integrated land management in arid, semi-arid and dry, subhumid lands was pointed out. It was felt that the Commission should lend its full support to the Convention process, particularly in underscoring the political implications of the Convention, in promoting awareness of it, and in urging early ratification and effective implementation, especially in Africa. The Commission was urged to continue its catalytic role.

26. In order to deal with these problems, the Working Group suggested that the Commission on Sustainable Development should, in particular, promote (a) observance of the World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought on 17 June; (b) awareness among policy makers through national institutions

established within the framework of the Convention; (c) an integrated approach to combating desertification, taking into account the links between desertification and poverty and the need for technologies for sustainable development; and (d) the mobilization of financial resources, inter alia, as called for by the relevant provisions of the Convention (articles 6, 20 and 21) and needed for its implementation, particularly in Africa.

D. Agenda 21, chapter 13: sustainable mountain development

27. It was appreciated that the report of the Secretary-General on sustainable mountain development (E/CN.17/1995/5), in addition to technical aspects, also covered the social, economic and cultural aspects of human development in mountain areas. The active role played by the non-governmental organization and the academic communities in the preparation of the document and in the general follow-up to chapter 13 was noted with appreciation. Attention was drawn to the need for international organizations and non-governmental organizations to join with Governments in the implementation of chapter 13 of Agenda 21.

28. The Working Group emphasized the need for action at the local, national and subregional and regional levels having the objective of reducing poverty in mountain areas, diversifying mountain economies, addressing environmental problems and creating new livelihood opportunities. In this connection it was stressed that people in mountain areas should receive a fair share of the benefits of resources originating in mountain areas with particular reference to the value of water, energy and mineral resources and income from tourism.

29. Concerning the proposals for action, the Working Group suggested that the Commission consider encouraging countries, with the support of the international community, to prepare and initiate implementation of comprehensive national mountain development programmes and to strengthen national capacity for sustainable mountain development using a participatory approach involving all stakeholders, including local and indigenous communities and non-governmental organizations.

30. The Working Group generally agreed with the proposals for encouraging interested countries and organizations to convene regional intergovernmental consultations and noted that one such meeting, organized by the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) in December 1994, had already been successfully held in the Asia and Pacific region and that others were in the course of preparation. A wider international meeting, possibly involving appropriate United Nations bodies, could facilitate the exchange of objectives, results and experiences concerning sustainable development in different mountain regions.

31. The Working Group suggested that the Commission support efforts to coordinate the preparation and negotiation of subregional international agreements on mountains and, in this context, welcomed the entry into force of the Alpine Convention.

E. Agenda 21, chapter 14: promoting sustainable agriculture and rural development

32. The Working Group recognized the need for an approach to sustainable agriculture and rural development (SARD) that balanced the need to maintain and improve food security and to protect physical and biological resources.

33. It underlined the importance of an undistorted sectoral and economy-wide policy framework that fully integrated environmental considerations. In this context, it noted that the full implementation of the Final Act Embodying the Results of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations 5/ would contribute to liberalizing international agricultural trade. The Working Group also took note of the activities of the World Trade Organization, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), UNEP and other forums. Some of this work is directed towards reforms in accordance with Uruguay Round agreements to reduce production-distorting price support, liberalize access, reduce tariff escalation and progressively eliminate export subsidies. The economic, social and environmental impacts of trade liberalization in the agriculture sector, especially on the least developed countries, should be monitored and evaluated with a view to promoting effects benefiting sustainable agriculture and rural development and deterring negative effects.

34. It also underlined the importance of developing appropriate internationally agreed agro-environmental criteria and indicators applicable to both developed and developing countries in order to monitor the status of and progress towards SARD, with the full and effective participation of developing countries, reflecting their specific conditions and needs.

35. The Working Group urged that a whole systems approach be adopted towards SARD, recognizing that efforts towards achieving its multiple objectives could not focus on agricultural activities alone, but would have to embody other local assets, land-use planning and community development. There was also a need to change attitudes and take concrete steps towards adopting sustainable agricultural policies and practices in order to enhance that process. Countries should be encouraged and supported in working out their own comprehensive agriculture policies and programmes taking full account of environmental concerns and the capacity-building needed to establish and maintain them.

36. Energy is one of the prerequisites of SARD. The Working Group took note of the recommendations of the Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and on Energy for Development at its special session (6-17 February 1995). It recommended that the Commission should give careful consideration to these recommendations for priority action by member States, entities within the United Nations system, other intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations.

F. Agenda 21, chapter 15: conservation of biological diversity

37. There was a general agreement that the report of the Secretary-General on conservation of biological diversity (E/CN.17/1995/7) provided a good overview of the progress achieved since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. The Working Group took note of the analyses and recommendations identified in the report and agreed that they provided a sound basis for advancing the conservation of biological diversity and the sustainable use of biological resources.

38. The Working Group stressed the cross-sectoral nature of biological diversity and the interlinkages among biodiversity and land use, sustainable agriculture and rural development, sustainable mountain development, sustainable forest management, desertification and virtually all other chapters of Agenda 21. Biodiversity relates to the issues of food security, and the eradication of poverty, as well as to traditional knowledge and practices of indigenous people. Biodiversity concerns should therefore be taken into account in addressing other chapters of Agenda 21.

39. The Working Group recognized that the Convention on Biological Diversity, which has now entered into force, will be the principal mechanism for advancing the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and provides an excellent basis for coordinating relevant instruments. The Working Group took note with appreciation of the note by the Secretariat transmitting a statement from the Conference of the Parties to the Convention to the Commission at its third session (E/CN.17/1995/27, annex). It took particular note of the intention of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention to take immediate action to undertake work on biosafety, establishing a panel of experts and an ad hoc open-ended working group of government experts to consider the needs for and modalities of a protocol to the Convention on that issue. The Working Group called on the Commission to support that biosafety work programme. The Working Group recommended that the Commission should (a) urge the Governments that had not yet done so to ratify the Convention; (b) encourage the Conference of the Parties to the Convention to take the lead in exploring means for coordinating relevant global and regional agreements related to biological diversity and establishing effective cooperation mechanisms; (c) urge Governments to integrate actions geared to conserving biodiversity and the sustainable utilization of biological resources and to promote, inter alia, through action plans, sustainable development, particularly in forests, agriculture, living marine resources, rural development and land use; (d) also urge Governments to promote the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits accruing from the utilization of biological resources; and (e) encourage the mobilization of the means of implementation with respect to the meeting of the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity by developing countries, particularly in the fields of financial resources and transfer of technology.

40. The Working Group recommended the promotion of human resource development and capacity-building of developing countries for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and its components.

41. The Working Group recommended that the Commission ensure the systematic consideration of biodiversity issues in all other relevant sectors.

III. KEY PROPOSALS FOR ACTION

42. The Working Group puts forward to the Commission for its consideration and coordination, where appropriate, the following key proposals for action, entailing efforts:

(a) To encourage the exchange of views on the development by Governments of their programmes for integrated land management, noting that such programmes need to involve all sectors of the community and all stakeholder groups and to be developed and implemented at the appropriate level;

(b) To encourage FAO, in partnership with UNEP, UNDP, other international organizations, and Governments, with the appropriate contributions of non-governmental organizations, to continue to develop tools for integrated land management, including internationally agreed indicators for sustainable agriculture and rural development, and to make the results of this process widely available. Such action should be carried forward to the Commission through the results of workshops, expert studies and reports, in an open and transparent manner, with the full and effective participation of developing countries, reflecting their specific conditions and needs;

(c) To accord high priority to practical action for the transfer, sharing, adaptation and development of technology for sustainable resource management in all sectors, at the national and international levels, including under the auspices of the United Nations system, in particular those of UNEP and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and of international conventions, as appropriate. Such action should include support for a wide range of initiatives, including:

(i) Capacity- and institution-building;

(ii) Exchange of information making use, inter alia, of inventories on ecotechnologies in those sectors;

(iii) Education and training, through the establishment of mechanisms such as environmental technology centres;

(d) To urge all States to sign, ratify, accede to and implement the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, making these Conventions the principal instruments for advancing international cooperation and practical action in their respective fields;

(e) To establish an open-ended intergovernmental panel on forests under the aegis of the Commission and to determine the terms of reference and modalities for its establishment;

(f) To encourage action by Governments at local, national, subregional and regional levels to prepare plans and programmes for the sustainable development of mountain areas, including through the eradication of poverty and the creation of more diverse economies with greater opportunities. Such action might be addressed through national, regional and international consultations involving Governments, United Nations bodies and centres of expertise including ICIMOD, the exchange of results and the possible development of regional or subregional initiatives;

(g) To encourage Governments to integrate action on energy into their efforts for sustainable agriculture and rural development, paying particular attention to the use of biomass, the mapping of potential rural energy resources, and the extension of electrification based on renewable energy technologies in rural areas. Such action should be facilitated by support from relevant organizations and donor agencies and could include the networking of centres of excellence, which might also serve as training centres. The Commission might consider how institutional arrangements to support sustainable energy development might be facilitated within the United Nations system;

(h) To welcome the decision of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity to include in its medium-term programme consideration of knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities; to take note of the remark in the statement of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention that it would also be desirable that future work on the protection of traditional knowledge and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant to conservation and sustainable use should be coordinated with the relevant bodies; and to welcome the progress made in the revision of the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, which relates to outstanding matters concerning plant genetic resources, including access to ex situ collections and the question of farmers' rights.

IV. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

A. Opening and duration of the session

43. The Working Group met at United Nations Headquarters from 27 February to 3 March 1995, in accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 1993/314 of 29 July 1993. The Working Group held 10 meetings (1st to 10th).

44. The session was opened by the Vice-Chairman of the Commission on Sustainable Development, Mr. Sérgio Florençio (Brazil).

45. The Chairman of the Working Group, Mr. Martin Holdgate (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), made an introductory statement.

46. A statement was made by the Director of the Division for Sustainable Development of the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development of the United Nations Secretariat.

47. The Working Group heard presentations by the task managers from UNEP and FAO regarding the report of the Secretary-General on an integrated approach to the planning and management of land resources (E/CN.17/1995/7), on combating deforestation (E/CN.17/1995/3), on managing fragile ecosystems: combating desertification and drought (E/CN.17/1995/4), on managing fragile ecosystems: sustainable mountain development (E/CN.17/1995/5), on promoting sustainable agriculture and rural development (E/CN.17/1995/6), and on conservation of biological diversity (E/CN.17/1995/7).

B. Attendance

48. Representatives of 34 States members of the Commission on Sustainable Development attended the session. Observers for other States Members of the United Nations and for non-member States and the European Community, representatives of organizations of the United Nations system and observers for intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations also attended. A list of participants is contained in annex II to the present report.

C. Election of officers

49. At the 1st meeting, on 27 February 1995, the Working Group elected by acclamation Mr. Martin Holdgate (United Kingdom) as Chairman.

D. Agenda and organization of work

50. At the 1st meeting, on 27 February 1995, the Working Group adopted its provisional agenda (see annex III to the present report), as contained in document E/CN.17/ISWG.I/1995/1.

Notes

1/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

2/ Ibid., annex I.

3/ Ibid., annex III.

4/ See United Nations Environment Programme, Convention on Biological Diversity (Environmental Law and Institutions Programme Activity Centre), June 1992.

5/ Legal Instruments Embodying the Results of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations, done at Marrakesh on 15 April 1994, vol. I.

Annex I

POSSIBLE ELEMENTS FOR THE PROGRAMME OF WORK OR TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE PROPOSED INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON FORESTS

The following is an indicative and non-exhaustive list of specific proposals in connection with elements for the programme of work of the proposed open-ended intergovernmental panel on forests, as suggested by various delegations. These proposals are not listed in any order of priority, and are without prejudice to their future consideration by the Commission on Sustainable Development.

1. Implementation of chapter 11 and the Forest Principles

Promote consensus at the international level and guide as well as coordinate a unified international programme of work for priority action to effectively follow up the Non-legally Binding Authoritative Statement of Principles for a Global Consensus on the Management, Conservation and Sustainable Development of All Types of Forests (Forest Principles) and other forest-related United Nations Conference on Environment and Development agreements.

Examine ways and means for the effective implementation of the Forest Principles, chapter 11 and other chapters of Agenda 21 related to forestry.

2. Approaches and assessments

Formulate approaches to addressing the underlying causes of deforestation, forest degradation and failure to achieve sustainable forest management, paying particular attention to cross-sectoral issues.

Propose ways to undertake periodic systematic assessment and report on the status of forests and on progress in implementing United Nations Conference on Environment and Development agreements.

Carry out inventory of, assess and monitor the world's forest resources on an ongoing basis, through national reporting and other means.

Examine the global forest cover needed in the future to provide for all the productive, protective and environmental functions of all types of forests.

Consider the needs of developing countries with low forest cover.

Determine how to best promote national implementation of existing forest conservation and sustainable management commitments.

Investigate the impact of exogenous factors on sustainable forest development and management, and on the patterns of forest products consumption.

Develop methodologies for the integration (and the full replacement costs as well as benefits) into market prices of all types of timber and timber products.

Develop and disseminate methodologies for the full valuation of forest goods and services, their inclusion in national accounts and their better reflection in market prices.

Promote the implementation of national forest action plans, including cross-sectoral approaches and coordinated international support.

3. Trade and environment

Consider issues relating to trade and environment, within the context of an integrated approach to environment and development and the mutually supportive relationship between trade and environment.

Consider the need to remove unilateral actions and trade practices (such as bans and boycotts) not consistent with the rules of the international trading system.

4. Criteria and indicators

Review existing initiatives related to the development of criteria and indicators at the national level for sustainable forest management, and consider effecting their convergence, and their adoption and application to all types of forests.

Examine the issue of criteria and indicators, including the desirability and feasibility of developing them, and the need to ensure that the diversity among countries, particularly the specific conditions in and needs of developing countries, are fully taken into account.

Consider the desirability of establishing new criteria and indicator processes (for example, for regions not currently covered), and/or of having converge those already under way.

Promote the harmonization of all major initiatives in the formulation of internationally agreed criteria and indicators for all types of forests so as to ensure sustainable forest management.

5. Market access

Promote market access for forest products on a non-discriminatory basis, in order to avoid practices inconsistent with the rules of international trading systems.

Expand market access for developing countries.

Examine the question of promoting increased market access for forest products on a non-discriminatory basis.

6. Certification and labelling

Promote dialogue and consensus related to the examination and possible development of ecolabelling and voluntary forest product certification.

Examine the feasibility and desirability of an internationally agreed timber certification scheme for all types of timber and timber products and the costs involved.

Consider the desirability and feasibility of developing internationally agreed timber certification schemes for all types of timber.

Consider the role of certification and labelling schemes, including private voluntary programmes, in promoting sustainable forest management.

Promote dialogue and consensus related to trade and environment issues including application of criteria and indicators at the management-unit level, when relevant to ecocertification.

7. Institutions

Undertake independent review of the roles of existing international institutions concerned with forests.

Review the roles of existing international institutions that address forest issues, and how best to coordinate those roles.

Carry out independent assessment of the roles of multilateral institutions and international organizations most concerned with forests to clarify their roles, identify gaps, minimize duplication and identify areas requiring improvement.

Seek ways to facilitate participation of major groups.

8. Review of existing instruments and the need for new legally binding instruments

Review existing instruments related to achieving international forest objectives for sustainable forest management, identify gaps and develop options for addressing them, including the need or otherwise for legally binding agreements at regional and global levels or for using combinations of existing instruments.

Undertake a review of international initiatives other than those focused on criteria and indicators of sustainable forest management.

Take into account the wide variety of efforts undertaken relating to forests, including those within the framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa.

Assess the desirability of new international agreements on forests and the attributes of such agreements.

9. Linkages

Review means to ensure that biodiversity issues permeate the sectoral programmes related to sustainable forest management, particularly under the "land cluster" rubric.

Investigate the linkages of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, to forests in terms of their applications/implementation, opportunities provided and gaps within the overall context of the multiple roles of forests.

Analyse how to best pursue research needs, including research on the linkage between forests and global environmental issues.

Identify and commission the research necessary to provide a stronger scientific basis for understanding the linkages between forests and regional and global environmental issues.

10. Protection of knowledge and rights

Safeguard indigenous rights.

Consider the protection of the economic, social and cultural rights of indigenous people and local communities.

Examine ways and means to protect appropriately, at the international level, the traditional knowledge of forest dwellers and local communities and to cooperate adequately with them when such knowledge is sought by developers of biotechnological innovations.

Protect the knowledge of indigenous peoples, farmers and local communities.

11. Protected areas

Examine the need for the development of an international network of ecologically representative protected areas as one among a number of measures for maintaining biological diversity and other forest values.

Consider the issue of an international network of protected forest areas.

12. Energy

Consider the important role of forests in meeting energy requirements through the provision of renewable sources of bio-energy, particularly in developing countries.

13. Information

Improve the availability, quality, timeliness and accessibility of information on the status and condition of all types of forests.

14. Financial resources and transfer of technology

Consider financial arrangements and technology transfer mechanisms for sustainable forest management.

Examine the role of assistance efforts in promoting sustainable forest management, taking a careful look at donor coordination in terms both of its multilateral and of its bilateral aspects, the need for rapid international response to national Governments in times of economic or institutional crises related to forests, and the need to focus in an integrated way on sustainable development.

Examine the means for technology transfer and the integration of indigenous knowledge into the mainstream, subject to the provisions of the appropriate intellectual property rights.

Examine relevant means of implementation, including matters related to financing and financial mechanisms and transfer of appropriate environmentally sound technologies, cooperation and capacity-building.

Review ways and means in which technology protected by intellectual property rights can be transferred to developing countries on concessional terms so as to enhance sustainable forest management.

Promote transfer of technology, capacity-building and cooperation under the terms defined particularly by chapter 34 of Agenda 21.

Review financial resources and technology transfer for the conservation management and sustainable development of forest resources.

Assess the special needs of developing countries in respect of transfer, adaptation and development of technologies for the development, sustainable use and protection of forests.

Annex II

ATTENDANCE

Members

Antigua and Barbuda:	
Australia:	Joanne Disano, Tony Byrne, Alison Russell-French, Rod Holesgrove, Jeannie Ludlow, Tony Kelloway, Mark Gray, Michael Rae
Bahamas:	
Bangladesh:	Masud Bin Momen
Barbados:	
Belarus:	
Belgium:	
Bolivia:	Alejandro Mercado, Gustavo Pedraza
Brazil:	Henrique Valle, Adhemar Gabriel Bahadian, Sérgio A. Florençio, Enio Cordeiro, Antonio F. Mello, Marcos Arbizu de Sousa Campos
Bulgaria:	Ivan Vladimirov Peitchev
Burkina Faso:	Gaettan Rimwanguiya Quedraogo, Prosper Sawadogo
Burundi:	
Canada:	John Fraser, Piotr Andrezejewski, Ann Cronin-Cossette, Shirley Lewchuk, Jennifer Irish, Judy Huska, Ross Noble, Jag Maini, David Drake, Johanna den Hertog, Jean-Pierre Martel
Chile:	Pablo Cabrera, Juan Eduardo Eguiguren, Miguel Angel Gonzalez
China:	
Ethiopia:	
Finland:	Asko Numminen, Riitta Resch, Kirsti Kivela, Pekka Patosaari, Leena Karjalainen-Balk
France:	Philippe Delacroix, Christian Barthod

Gabon:	Guy-Marcel Eboumy
Germany:	Hans Peter Schipulle, Rainald H. Roesch, Birgit Wolz, Ulrich Hoenisch, Manfred Konukiewitz, Edith Kürzinger-Wiemann, Hagen Frost, Harald Hildebrand, Stefan Schmitz, Uwe Taeger
Ghana:	
Guinea:	
Hungary:	
Iceland:	
India:	V. L. Chopra
Indonesia:	Triyono Wibowo
Iran (Islamic Republic of):	Majid Takht-Ravanchi, Hoseein Kamalian, Mohammad Rezah, H. K. Jabbry
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Japan:	Takao Shibata, Mujneo Segawa, Shin-ichi Arai, Takeshi Goto, Nozomu Hayashi, Natsuto Sato, Masanori Kobayashi
Malawi:	Ngelesi Mwuangulu, Fexton Matupa
Malaysia:	Ting Wen Lian, Hussein Haniff, Saw Ching Hong, Thang Hooi Chiew, Chan Lai Har, Lim Eng Siang, Nadzri Yahaya, James Dawos Mamit, Himmat S. Maui
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Morocco:	Ahmed Amaziane
Namibia:	
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Papua New Guinea:	
Peru:	Mario López-Chavarri, Italo Acha

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Poland:	Tadeusz Strojwas
Republic of Korea:	
Russian Federation:	Vladimir A. Zimyanin
Senegal:	Kéba Birane Cisse, Seydina Omar Diop, Alioune Ndjouck, Mamadou Yaya Sy
Spain:	Ampara Rambla, Elisa Baraona Miguel Aguirre de Carcer
Tunisia:	Abderrazak Azaiez, Ghazi Jomaa
Turkey:	Mr. Hayati Güven, L. Murat Burhan, H. Avni Karshoglu
Uganda:	
Ukraine:	Yuri G. Ruban, Anatoliy P. Dembitskiy, Kostyantyn P. Elisseev
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland:	Peter Unwin, Martin Holdgate, Brian Oliver, Mr. Ian Symons, Mike Dudley, Chris Yarnell, John Carroll, Ann Grant, Victoria Harris, Jill Barrett, Stephen Gomersall
United Republic of Tanzania:	
United States of America:	
Uruguay:	Victor Canton
Venezuela:	

States Members of the United Nations represented by observers

Algeria, Argentina, Austria, Benin, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, Haiti, Ireland, Israel, Kenya, Lebanon, Mauritania, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Portugal, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Swaziland, Sweden and Yemen.

Non-member States and entities represented by an observer

Switzerland, European Community.

United Nations Secretariat

United Nations Children's Fund, United Nations Environment Programme, United Nations Development Programme.

Specialized agencies and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT)

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, World Health Organization, International Monetary Fund.

Intergovernmental organizations

International Tropical Timber Organization, Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development.

Non-governmental organizations

World Resources Institute (non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, category II), Population Communications-International (non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Council, Roster).

Annex III

AGENDA

1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

2. Integrated planning and management of land resources (Agenda 21, chapter 10).

3. Forests (Agenda 21, chapter 11 and "Forest Principles").

4. Desertification and drought (Agenda 21, chapter 12).

5. Mountains (Agenda 21, chapter 13).

6. Agriculture and rural development (Agenda 21, chapter 14).

7. Biodiversity (Agenda 21, chapter 15).

8. Other matters.

9. Adoption of the report of the Working Group.